

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTEV 02287 101619Z
ACTION ARA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 2287

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, UY
SUBJ: INFORMATION ON SPECIFIC CASES OF HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: MONTEVIDEO 2242

1. SUMMARY. AFTER DISCUSSING THE MATTER RECENTLY WITH
AMBASSADOR ALVARO ALVAREZ OF THE FONMINISTRY, WE REACHED
AGREEMENT THAT REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ON PERSONS NOW
DETAINED IN URUGUAY COULD BE PASSED INFORMALLY TO HIM
PROVIDED THERE EXISTED A HIGH-LEVEL USG INTEREST IN THE
CASE. CERTAIN CATEGORIES WOULD BE EXCEPTED SUCH AS
TUPAMAROS AND HIGH-LEVEL MEMBERS OF THE URUGUAYAN COMMUNIST
PARTY AND ITS MILITARY APPARATUS. IT WAS MADE CLEAR TO
ALVAREZ THAT HIS WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT ANY REQUEST RESTED
SOLELY WITH HIM. ACTION REQUESTED. GIVEN THE INFORMAL
CHARACTER OF MY DISCUSSION WITH ALVAREZ AND THE FACT
THAT THE PROCEDURE HAS NOT YET BEEN TESTED, THE MATTER
SHOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED WITH ALVAREZ, THE URUGUAYAN
EMBASSY, ANY OTHER URUGUAYAN OFFICIAL OR WITH PRIVATE
PERSONS OR ORGANIZATIONS IN THE U.S. AT THIS TIME.
END SUMMARY.

2. REFTEL COMMENTED ON POSSIBILITY OF EMBASSY IN FUTURE
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BEING ABLE MAKE INQUIRIES OF FONMINISTRY ON SPECIFIC
CASES INVOLVING HUMAN RIGHTS. IN RECENT CONVERSATION
WITH AMBASSADOR ALVARO ALVAREZ, FONMINISTRY'S DIRECTOR
OF FIREIGN POLICY, I REVIEWED WITH HIM LONG HISTRY OF
CONVERSATIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS BETWEEN EMBASSY OFFICERS
AND GOU AUTHORITIES AT ALL LEVELS. I SAID I WAS SPEAKING
WITHOUT INSTRUCTION, AND THAT ONE FACTOR WHICH CONTINUED

TO BOTHER ME WAS THE INABILITY FOR THE EMBASSY TO HAVE A SOURCE WITHIN THE GOU TO WHICH IT MIGHT GO ON SPECIFIC CASES. RECOGNIZING THE SENSITIVITIES INVOLVED, I SAID THAT I BELIEVED IT WOULD BE IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH COUNTRIES IF SOME INFORMAL MEANS COULD BE ESTABLISHED BY WHICH THE NAME OF A PERSON COULD BE LEFT WITH SOME ELEMENT WITHIN THE GOU WITH IT BEING UNDERSTOOD THAT IT WAS UP TO THE GOU TO BE WILLING TO REVEIVE IT OR NOT. I SAID I WAS AWARE OF SOME CASES IN WHICH THE PERSON ALLEGED TO BE DETAINED HAD BEEN RELEASED OR HAD LEFT THE COUNTRY BUT THAT THIS INFORMATION WAS NOT KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY OR TO THE INTERESTED PERSON OR ORGANIZATION IN THE UNITED STATES. I SAID THAT SUCH AN INFORMAL PROCEDURE THUS SEEMED TO OFFER ADVANTAGES FOR A FREER EXCHANGE THAN NOW EXISTED. I REPEATED THAT IT WAS UP TO THE GOU, OF COURSE, TO BE WILLING TO RECEIVE SUCH INQUIRIES ABOUT URUGUAYAN NATIONALS.

3. ALVAREZ REPLIED THAT THE ENTIRE MATTER WAS INDEED A SENSITIVE ONE, BUT THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO TEST IT HIMSELF ON A TRIAL BASIS AT LEAST BUT ONLY IN THOSE CASES IN WHICH A HIGH-LEVEL U.S. INTEREST HAD BEEN EXPRESSED AS I HAD SUGGESTED. HE WOULD NOT BE WILLING TO RECEIVE INQUIRIES ON BEHALF OF SUCH ORGANIZATIONS AS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, FOR EXAMPLE. ALVAREZ BY IMPLICATION MADE CLEAR THAT WE WERE DISCUSSING CASES OF PERSONS WHO WERE NOT TUPAMAROS OR WHO HAD NOT BEEN HIGH-LEVEL MEMBERS OF THE URUGUAYAN COMMUNIST PARTY OR ITS MILITARY APPARATUS. I REPLIED THAT ANY OPPORTUNITY

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TO EXERCISE WHAT I HAD SUGGESTED WAS MORE HELPFUL FOR BOTH SIDES THAN THE SITUATION NOW EXISTING.

4. THE ABSENCE OF A CASE MEETING THE CONDITIONS SET FORTH ABOVE HAS PREVENTED US THUS FAR FROM USING THE OPENING THAT APPEARS TO EXIST. I WILL DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BUT WOULD OF COURSE WISH TO ZJVE DISCRETION WITH RESPECT TO THE CASES TO BE PASSED TO ALVAREZ. IN THE INITIAL STAGES AT LEAST, I ALSO BELIEVE THAT INFORMAL PROCEDURE OUTLINED ABOVE SHOULD BE USED SPARINGLY UNTIL SENSITIVITIES AND OTHER FACTORS ARE CLEARER AS WELL AS RESPONSIVENESS OF GOU. I WILL HAVE NO OPPORTUNITY IN ANY EVENT TO PRESENT ANY CASE UNTIL AFTER ALVAREZ RETURNS FROM THE OASGA IN GRENADA, AND I ALSO WOULD PREFER TO TAKE UP A CASE IN CONNECTION WITH A CALL ON HIM ON ANOTHER SUBJECT.

5. ACTION REQUESTED. GIVEN THE STATUS OF THE PROCEDURE AND THE FACT THAT IT HAS NOT BEEN TESTED, I REQUEST THAT THIS MATTER NOT BE DISCUSSED OR RAISED IN ANY

WAY BY THE DEPARTMENT AT THIS TIME WITH EITHER ALVAREZ
OR THE URUGUAYAN EMBASSY OR BE DISCUSSED AS YET WITH
INTERESTED PRIVATE PERSONS OR ORGANIZATIONS.
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Message Attributes

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